

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALEAP

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRNG

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 18 EA PRESS SUMMARY

NOTE: CSM, JOC, CHITRIB, AND BALT. N-A UNAVAILABLE.

CHINA

1. FM CHI PENG-FEI TOLD VISITING REPS OF JAPANESE POLITICAL PARTIES IN OCTOBER THAT US-JAPAN SECURITY ALLIANCE IS "NATURAL...AS LONG AS JAPAN'S SELF-DEFENSE STRENGTH IS NOT ADEQUATE." THIS ACCORDING TO DSP MEMBER WRITING IN PARTY'S ORGAN. CHI EXPLAINED THIS CONTRAST WITH PREVIOUS PRC ATTACKS ON "AGGRESSIVE" MILITARY ALLIANCE BY SAYING NORMALIZATION OF JAPAN-PRC RELATIONS HAD CHANGED SITUATION (WP, PHINQ, NYDN).

2. DURDIN (NYT) REPORTS PHENOMENON OF FIRST MASS STUDENT ACTIVITY SINCE GPCR IN SUDDEN SURGE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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RALLIES AT UNIVERSITIES IN PEKING, TIENTSIN AND

SHENYANG, OSTENSIBLY IN SUPPORT OF SK DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST ROKG. DURDIN SEES MEANING BEYOND MERE FACT OF DENUNCIATIONS OF ROKG. SOMEONE IN PRC HIERARCHY HAS SUDDENLY DECIDED TO BRING STUDENTS BACK ON STAGE TO PLAY POLITICAL ROLE, AND IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT SIGNIFICANCE LIES MORE IN DOMESTIC POLICIES THAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. NOTES SOME SPECULATION

THAT CHIANG CHING GROUP, WHICH HAS LEVERAGE IN UNIVERSITIES, IS USING STUDENTS FOR SHOW OF STRENGTH WHICH COULD BE PART OF MANEUVERING AND POLEMICS BETWEEN LEFTISTS AND CHOU FACTION.

JAPAN

3. NAKASONE TELLS DIET THAT JAPANESE HOUSEHOLDS FACE POSSIBLE 20 PERCENT CUTS IN ELECTRICITY AND IN PRESENT CRISIS JAPAN NEEDS EVERY DROP OF OIL IT CAN GET. SHE IS THEREFORE CONSIDERING PURCHASING FROM LIBYA "HOT OIL" WHOSE OWNERSHIP IS DISPUTED BETWEEN LIBYA AND INTERNATIONALS WHOSE LIBYAN HOLDINGS WERE NATIONALIZED; USG HAS ASKED OTHERS NOT TO BUY IT PENDING LITIGATION (WP).

4. JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL NEWSPAPER NIKKAN KOGYO QUOTING UNIDENTIFIED GAIMUSHO SOURCES, SAYS ONE OF WORLD'S LARGEST OIL DEPOSITS - POSSIBLY ONE TENTH OF WORLD'S RESERVES - HAS BEEN DISCOVERED IN VENEZUELA'S ORINOCO DELTA (WP).

5. OBERDORFER DOES PIECE AN ANNUAL DRAMATIC HIGH POINT OF NHK-TV, THE SUICIDE OF A HISTORICAL NATIONAL HERO. NHK ATTRIBUTES CURRENT WAVE OF ESCAPIST INTEREST IN SAMURAI DRAMA TO ANXIETY OVER CURRENT TROUBLES FACING JAPAN. FOR PAST 11 YEARS, CLIMAX OF SAMURAI SERIES HAS PLAYED ROLE IN NATIONAL SENSE OF ANNUAL FULFILLMENT; ANOTHER CYCLE BEGINS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. OBERDORFER NOTES NHK'S DOMINANT POSITION BASED ON NEARLY UNIVERSAL "VOLUNTARY" SUBSCRIPTIONS; SAYS PRODUCERS, DIRECTORS AND EDITORS UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE BOTH GREAT LEEWAY AND IMPACT, AND MANY ARE IMBUED WITH DESIRE TO SPREAD SOCIAL MESSAGE BORDERING ON THE POLITICAL (WP).

KOREA

6. NYT REPORTS FROM SEOUL ON DEC. 17 NIGHT MEETING OF ABOUT 250 SK CHRISTIAN STUDENTS, FROM CATHOLIC

AND PROTESTANT FEDERATIONS, IN "PRAYER SERVICE FOR NATIONAL SALVATION" URGED ROKG TO AMEND CONSTITUTION AND RESTORE DEMOCRACY. STUDENTS SENT SEPARATE PETITION TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT URGING IT TO DISCONTINUE SUPPORT FOR "DICTATORIAL REGIME" OR FACE "ANTI-JAPANESE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL SALVATION".

7. LAT'S LAMB (DEC. 12) IN NZ DESCRIBES AUTOMATION AT ONE OF NZ'S 22,000 DAIRY FARMS. CHARACTERIZES THEM AS MOST EFFICIENT AND ADVANCED IN WORLD; AFTER LEAN 1960S, THEY ARE SHARING IN UNEQUALLED ECONOMIC BOOM. NZ IS WORLD'S LARGEST DAIRY EXPORTER, ITS 60 MILLION SHEEP AND 9 MILLION CATTLE ACCOUNTING FOR 80 PERCENT OF NZ'S 1.4 BILLION DOL EXPORT INCOME. FEARS THAT UK'S ENTRY INTO EC WOULD PROVE DISASTROUS WERE UNWARRANTED. UK'S SHARE OF DAIRY EXPORTS DROPPED BUT NZ HAS FOUND NEW BUYERS, PARTICULARLY FOR POWDERED MILK, IN SEA AND LA.

INDOCHINA

8. FINNEY (NYT) REPORTS SENATE APPROVES 5.5 BILLION ECON AND MILITARY AID BILL, 1.4 BILLION DOLS LESS THAN ADMIN REQUEST AND 359 MILLION DOLS LESS THAN APPROVED BY HOUSE. BILL NOW GOES TO CONFERENCE. BUDGETARY SQUEEZE, ACCORDING TO FINNEY, WOULD PROBABLY BE MOST ACUTE IN CASE OF CAMBODIA. IN PROTEST AGAINST WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS "INHUMANE" TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SVN, APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PROVIDED THAT FUNDS IN BILL COULD NOT BE USED TO SUPPORT SVN POLICE OR PRISON SYSTEM. WP ADDS THAT SENATE BILL CONTAINED BAN ON DOD FUEL SHIPMENTS TO INDOCHINA.

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9. RANDAL (WP) FROM PARIS REPORTS LE DUC THO'S ARRIVAL IN "MILITANTLY HOSTILE MOOD" FOR MEETING WITH HAK DESIGNED TO PREVENT COLLAPSE OF C-F ACCORDS. AT AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE THO TELLS WHY HE FEELS US AND SVN MUST BEAR "ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY" FOR "SERIOUS SITUATION" ARISING FROM "EXTREMELY BRAZEN" C-F VIOLATIONS. LISTS PRESENCE OF US MILITARY ADVISERS "DISGUISED" AS CIVILIANS, US FAILURE TO HONOR PLEDGE OF MASSIVE RECONSTRUCTION AID TO NVN, CONTINUED INCARCERATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SVN, AND PARALYSIS OF VC-SAIGON POLITICAL AND MILITARY TALKS. THOUGH ONLY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, THO LEAVES DOOR OPEN BY SAYING THAT FURTHER TALKS WOULD DEPEND ON ABILITY OF US TO

PROVE MOTIVATED BY "SAME SERIOUS INTEREST" AS HANOI.
RANDAL SAYS INFORMED SOURCES SUGGEST THAT NEW ROUND
OF TALKS IN OFFING, HOPEFULLY TO HEAD OFF MAJOR
FIGHTING, AND THAT MILITARY QUESTIONS ARE SECONDARY
TO POLITICAL PROBLEMS LARGELY BECAUSE PRC, USSR
AND US HAVE SCALED DOWN ARMS SHIPMENTS. NYT SAYS

OF TALKS, QUOTES THO THAT TALKS ARRANGED AT REQUEST
OF US (THOUGH WH HAD CLAIMED "THROUGH MUTUAL CONSULTATION")
AND THAT THO COMES IN "SPIRIT OF GOODWILL WITH
SERIOUS INTENTIONS" BUT NVN FULLY SUPPORTS PRG
IN PUNISHING SAIGON "ACTS OF WAR". NYT ALSO QUOTES
GVN PARIS REP THAT HANOI HAD SUGGESTED MEETING
(LE DUC THO ARRIVAL STORY ALSO BY VALERY, NYDN;
LEWTHWAITE, SUN; AND IN PHINQ).

10. SVN MILITARY SPOKESMAN SAYS ARVN KILLED 97
COMMUNISTS IN FIERCE FIGHTING FOR DELTA RICE HARVEST
(UPI NYDN, NYT, WP; PHINQ). NVA OVERRUNS ARVN
CAMP IN HILLS 30 MILES SW OF HUE (UPI, WP; PHINQ).

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